

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 10, 12 to 20, 82, and 83 remain pending. Claims 85 to 87 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 09164300A to Nakao et al (Nakao) in view of JP 6122890A to Kuwamoto et al. (Kuwamoto).

The rejection of claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto is overcome. Present independent claim 1 requires the fabric grooming device have (1) a steam selector that is operatively connected to a steam generator to provide selective manipulation of steam generation levels, and (2) an impact sensor that automatically deactivates the device in response to sensory input ascertained as a consequence of the device being dropped. The combination of Nakao and Kuwamoto does not disclose or suggest a fabric grooming device having such features.

Claims 5 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of U.S. 2003/0074903 to Upadhye et al. (Upadhye).

The rejection of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto and further in view of Upadhye is overcome. Independent claim 1 requires the fabric grooming device have (1) a steam selector that is operatively connected to a steam generator to provide selective manipulation of steam generation levels, and (2) an impact sensor that automatically deactivates the device in response to sensory input ascertained as a consequence of the device being dropped. The combination of

Nakao and Kuwamoto and further in view of Upadhye does not disclose or suggest a fabric grooming device having such features.

Claim 85 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of U.S. 2001/0032403 to Har et al. (Har).

The rejection of claim 85 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto and further in view of Har is moot since it has been canceled.

Claims 18 to 20, 82, and 83 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of U.S. 6,255,630 to Barnes et al. (Barnes).

The rejection of claims 18 to 20, 82, and 83 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto and further in view of Barnes is overcome. Independent claims 18 to 20 require the fabric grooming device have (1) a steam selector that is operatively connected to a steam generator to provide selective manipulation of steam generation levels, and (2) an impact sensor that automatically deactivates the device in response to sensory input ascertained as a consequence of the device being dropped. The combination of Nakao and Kuwamoto and further in view of Barnes does not disclose or suggest a fabric grooming device having such features.

Claims 86 and 87 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto and Barnes as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of Har.

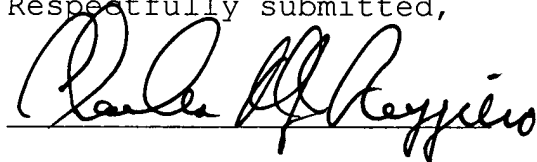
The rejection of claims 86 and 87 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto and further in view of Har is moot since they have been canceled.

The claim feature pertaining to the steam selector is disclosed at page 7, lines 6 to 8. The claim feature pertaining to the impact sensor is disclosed at page 11, lines 8 to 22.

Reconsideration of claims 1 to 10, 12 to 20, 82, and 83 is deemed warranted in view of the foregoing, and allowance of said claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

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